

Good Morning Chairman Corriveau and distinguished members of the committee, my name is Bill Black, Executive Director of DRIVE, our political action committee, which stands for Democratic, Republican, Independent Voter Education.

I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 4628.

I would like to make a few brief comments about the annual re-authorization requirement.

Current Campaign Finance law places an onerous requirement on individuals who want to voluntarily participate in a political check-off program. For a person to continue participation in the volunteer program, through an employer or labor organization, individuals are forced to complete an authorization card each year.

Without permission, the State of Michigan interferes with a worker's right to voluntarily participate and in essence, revokes the voluntary authorization by the worker.

Members of the Teamsters believe the requirements and restrictions place undue burdens on the ability of individuals to participate in the democratic process.

If a person wants to contribute to a political check off, the government should not make it so burdensome and difficult.

The current requirement does not serve the public interest. Some may argue the onerous requirement protects the workers who may want to stop contributing. This argument fails because the political check-off program has always been a voluntary program. Applicable state and federal laws already gives the right to any member to revoke their voluntary authorization at anytime. I have provided a copy of our Michigan DRIVE card which details the right to voluntarily get out of the political check-off program at anytime.

Campaign finance law allows workers to voluntarily contribute a buck or two a week to

their political programs. In America, we should let the workers decide when they want to stop giving. Under the current law, the government goes too far in putting burdensome obstacles on the individual rights of Michigan citizens.

Again, I want to emphasize that state and federal law already gives workers the right to stop participating in a political check-off program at anytime. The government should not force them to stop. This is a free speech issue. This is an individual rights issue. This is an issue of government going too far to restrict an individual's right to participate in the political process.

Workers should be able to volunteer to get in and get out, not forced to stop by the government.

Usurping the rights of public sector employees to voluntarily give pursuant to a negotiated check-off system is undemocratic.

Please stand up for the individual rights of American citizens who want to participate in the political process.

The current law goes too far. I hope that you will support this legislation.

MICHIGAN D.R.I.V.E.

DEDUCTION WITHDRAWAL FORM



I, _____ request Michigan D.R.I.V.E., and my employer, _____, stop all weekly voluntary salary deductions to Michigan D.R.I.V.E. from my earnings.

I understand that upon receipt of this form, D.R.I.V.E. will remove my name from its contributor list and notify my employer of my request. I further understand that this process can take four to six weeks and that during this interim period further deductions might be made by my employer.

Name (Please Print)

Street Address (Please Print)

City State Zip

Social Security Number

Employer

Date

Local Number

Please forward request to stop deductions to company.



Michigan DRIVE

Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education

Classification

Local Union #

Date

I subscribe, freely and voluntarily, the sum indicated below each week to DRIVE with the understanding that this voluntary contribution may be used by DRIVE for political purposes, including contributions to support candidates for local, state and federal offices. I understand my right to refuse to contribute without reprisal and that the amounts below serve merely as suggestions. I am free to subscribe more, less, or nothing, without benefit or disadvantage.

I further hereby authorize and request my employer to deduct from my earnings the sum indicated below each week to be remitted to Michigan DRIVE.

I reserve the right in accordance with the applicable state or federal laws to revoke this voluntary authorization at any time by giving written notice of such revocation to Michigan DRIVE in accordance with such laws or otherwise.

Suggested voluntary contributions:

\$1.00 \$2.00 \$3.00 Other

A copy of the Michigan DRIVE report is filed with the Michigan Secretary of State, Elections Division and is available for purchase. Donation not U.S. tax deductible.

Name of Company—Please print

Signature

Name—Please print

Address

Social Security Number

City

State

Zip

Dist. No.

Payroll Ctr No.

E-Mail Address

Original copy to Employer - White copy to Michigan DRIVE